PRIMENADE

A MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN FOLK LORE

Summer Issue Vol. III NO.7

AMERICAN SQUARE_DANCE GROUP

MARGOT MAYO

LEADER

V.Q.

" PROMENADE"
Official organ of the American Square Dance Group

"The purpose of the A merican Square Dance Group shall be to make available those rich stores of native dance, music, drama and general Americana, which together comprise American folk culture; to conduct such activities without regard for race, color, creed, social position; to cooperate with those who hold similar views. "
A.S.D.G. Constitution

"Promenade" is published monthly with one special Summer Edition.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
$1.00.....yearly
$ .15.....single mailed copy

EDITORIAL STAFF
Margot Mayo
Judith Altstadt
Vita Rudikoff

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ADDRESS
1657 Broadway, N.Y.C.
MU6-4637

A NEW SEASON

July, August and September have flown by like the wind. The members of the ASDG are returning to the city and reporting in for action. It's fun to get together and have requests for favorite dances "that I've been dicing to dance all summer".

The Group had rehearsals all summer, and inspite of the city heat we enjoyed our evenings of dancing. The Group filled the usual number of summer engagements and the members who were out of town made the usual valiant attempts at collecting folk material for Promenade. However, this year, gas and tire rationing played havoc with their efforts. It's not so easy to get around these days, all of us discovered, and those who remained in the city found that Saturday night expeditions into the country in quest of square dances were a thing of the past. So please, send in material so that Promenade will not suffer from malnutrition. Articles, songs, tunes and dances, notices of square dances and other Group meetings around the entire country will be greatly appreciated .

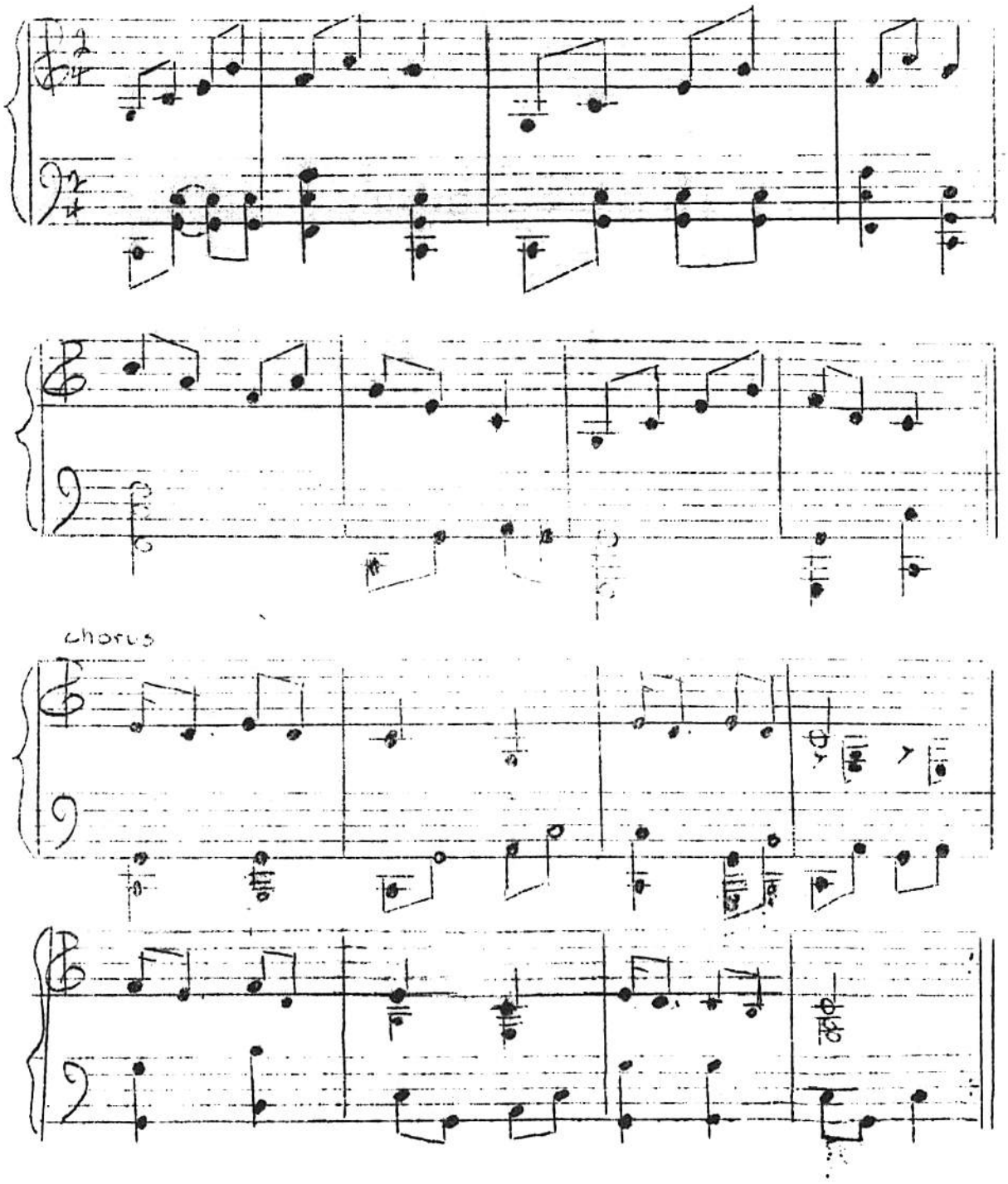
The members of the ASDG are much like the proverbial "large happy family" good friends, folks who are always willing and anxious to help out in a difficulty. Of course, we have our little troubles and squabbles, like any family , but on the whole, we are a pretty close sort of Group. When an "old timer" in the Group is going away, everybody feels sort of low and lonesome like. This past season, several of our boys have left town, for one reason or another, either to join in armed service, to take up new jobs in Washington or to attend out -of-town colleges. And each parting is a sad moment for those of us who stay behind. Now, again, we must say "so long , it's been good to know ye" to a member of the Group, this time, to a chap who has been an active and very dependable member of the Group for some three or more years. It's kind of hard to write a good bye to Bob Simon, with his wonderful quiet sense of humor, his quick sympathy and understanding, his smile..... it's hard for us to put into words how we feel about him, and it's silly to say that we miss him. He knows that, we believe, just as he always understands. We are not afraid for Bobby, he'll get a long whereever he is, for he always does his job, does it well and without complaining. Bobby will be alright and it gives us a warm kind of felling knowing that boys like Bob are in our armed forces! But we do feel sorry for ourselves, because we know how very much we shall miss him. All we

can say is, "Bobby, you're pretty important to us, you're part of this crazy Group of ours, very much a part of this Group, so please forgive us for sounding sentimental. We are proud of you, proud to have had you with us and sorry to part with you even for a short time (we hope). Take care of yourself, We know you'll do your job, and do it well. And hurry back, We'll be waiting for your return so we can shout to your that famous old rally cry of the ASDG, "ALLEMANDE"

Margot

SUGAR CANE

(collected by Alan Swartz in Florida as played by Alderman Keene)



"BACKSTAIRS MAID"
(collected by Donald Jamieson in Old Forge, N.Y.,
called by Andy Kuetz)

FORMATION: square set

MUSIC: Big-eared Mule or Turkey in the Straw

INTRODUCTION: "honor your partners, honor your corners"
A) Circle left halfway then turn about
Circle left inside out

CALLS:

1) All four gents out to the right
Swing that girl with all your might

2) Once more I repeat my call
On to the next and swing her all

3) Now gents swing the Backstairs Maid
And when you're through, promenade.
Take her back where she belongs.

(the dance is repeated until the gents promenade with their original partners)

CHORUS:

4) Do-si-do your corners, do-si-do your own

5) Swing your partner once around and promenade her home.

DESCRIPTION:

A) Circle left halfway around, drop hands and face out, turning to your left, then join hands and circle back to place.

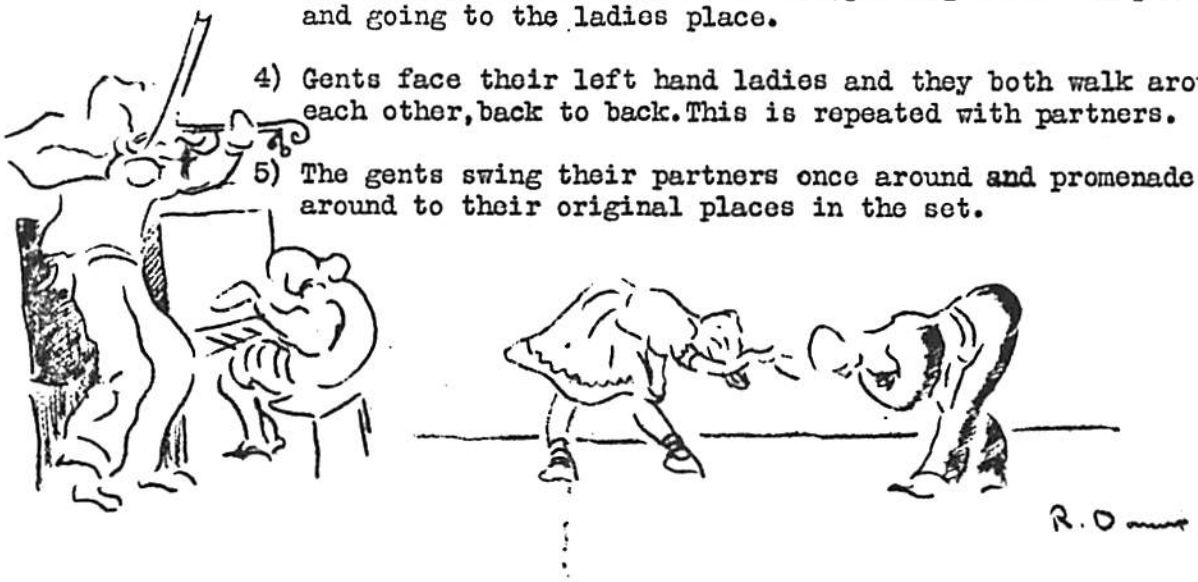
1) All the four gents go out to the lady on their right and swing her.

2) All four gents on to the next lady and swing her.

3) All four gents now go back to the first lady they swung before and then promenade around the set, passing their own places and going to the ladies place.

4) Gents face their left hand ladies and they both walk around each other, back to back. This is repeated with partners.

5) The gents swing their partners once around and promenade around to their original places in the set.



"GREAT GRAND DAD"
(collected by Donald Jamieson in Old Forge, N.Y., called by Andy Kmetz)

FORMATION: square set

MUSIC: Great Grand Dad

INTRODUCTION: "honor your partners, honor your corners"
A) Circle left inside in and your outside out
Halfway round then turn about and circle left, inside out.

CALLS:

1) First couple go round the outside, lady "gee" and the gent "haw"

2) Meet your lady and do-si-do

3) Circle four with the couple below

4) I'll swing yours and you swing mine

5) You swing yours and I'll swing mine

6) Swing her home

CHORUS:

7) Allemande left and grand right and left, when you meet your partner promenade her home.

(the calls and chorus are repeated for each couple in turn)

LAST CHORUS:

8) Allemande left, grand right and left, when you meet your partner, swing her home.

DESCRIPTION:

A) All join hands and circle left, when halfway round drop hands, turn outwards (turning to the left) join hands and circle left, back to place.

1) The first gent goes to his left and the lady to the right around the outside of the set.

2) They move back to back when they meet at the other side.

3) The opposite couple (the third couple) pivots around in place and circles left with the active couple, once around.

4) Each gent then swing his opposite lady

5) Then he swings his own lady

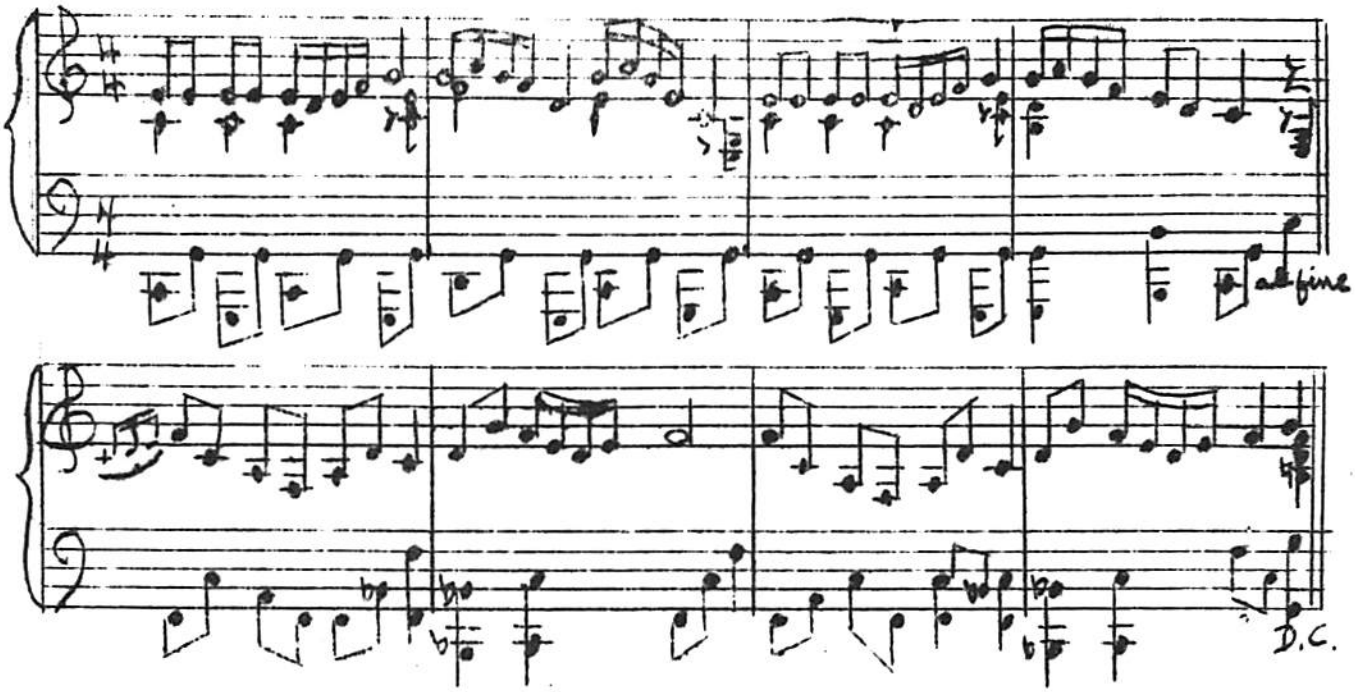
6) The head couple swings to their place through the center of the set while the foot couple swings in place.

7) All four gents face the lady on their left, giving her their left hands. They walk around the ladies back to their partners. They give their right hand to their partners, then walk past them giving the next lady in line their left hand and so on alternating hands until they reach their partners. Then they promenade back to place.

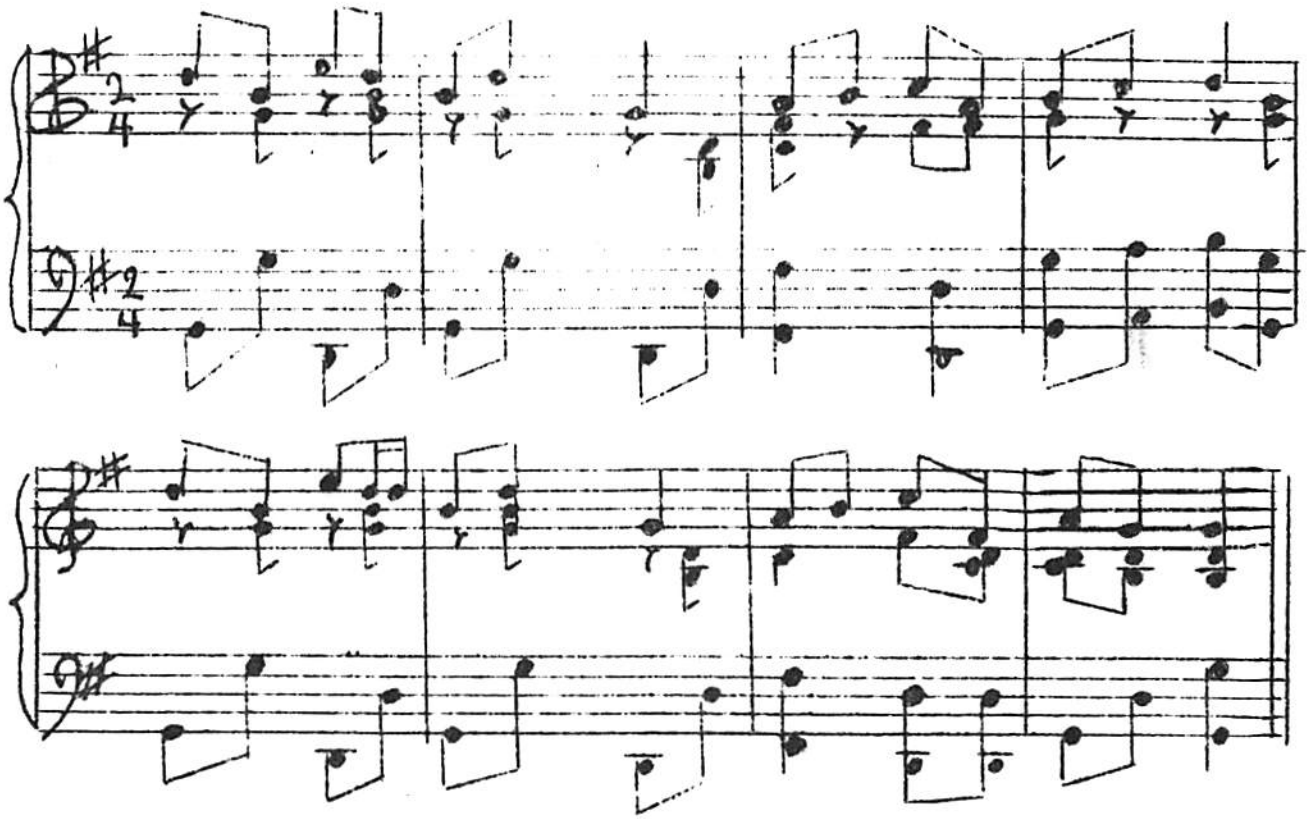
8) The gents meet their partners and swing them to place.

"RED RIVER"

(collected by Don and Stuart Jamieson in the Adirondacks)



"GREAT GRAND DAD"



BOOK REVIEW

IT'S FUN TO SQUARE DANCE
Southern Appalachian calls and figures by
Bascom Lamar Lunsford and George Myers Stephens
pub....Stephens' Press, Asheville, N.C.

Here is a pamphlet which in a little over fifteen pages describes the "Southern Running Set" about which so little has been written. It is very interesting to read, and the directions are clear, complete, and easy to follow for those who may have had few or even no previous experiences in square dancing. To make it even simpler there are photographs and diagrams of all the dance figures in the book. The photographs and diagrams show the even couples in light clothes and the odd couples in dark clothes consistently throughout the book which makes it even simpler to follow. At the back of the book the authors give some very pertinent information about music for dancing, and recommend under records our album of Running Sets, Decca #274 among the very few sources of authentic recorded Appalachian folk music. Recognition from such an outstanding authority as Mr. Lunsford is gratifying to us and we deeply appreciate his mentioning the American Square-Dance Group records. In passing, may we add that the tunes and calls used in this album were collected by Margot Mayo in the very section of the South where Mr. Lunsford lives.

Mr. Lunsford is the director of the Annual Mountain Dance and Folk Festival held in Asheville, North Carolina, about mid-summer every year. We think that this is one of the few real folk festivals still held in this country. Last summer Promenade enthusiastically reviewed this worth-while festival, and though none of us could attend it this year we have heard from those who did attend it that it was certainly as fine as ever. Mr. Lunsford knows his subject very thoroughly and his booklet is a welcome addition to the limited library of American folk dance.

So, if you really want to Acquire a thorough understanding of the American folk dance, this book covers a type of dance which must not be overlooked.

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We see that Joseph Marais has published a book of some fourteen songs of the African Veldt. He is al long-time favorite of ours and we always enjoy his songs. Shirmers is the publisher.

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Oh yes, imagine our forgetting..... Joseph Marais' songs have been made up by Decca. We're tired of doing all the work..... so those of you that are interested.....YOU look up the Album Number.

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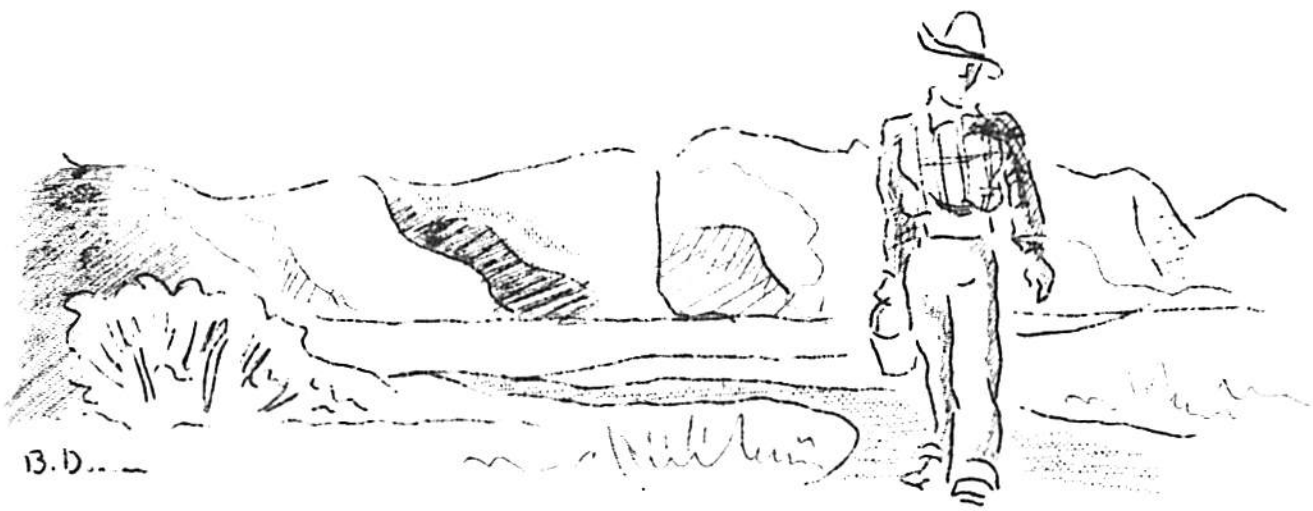

NOTES OF INTEREST

With the Autumn comes the exodus of the college students, leaving always a great gap in the ASDG. Pat Diska and Phyllis return to their respective colleges for their sophmore years;Maizie Gussakoff,Rose Janet Frumes,Joe Raben and Gene Levitt all departing hence to tackle the new world of college life. Good luck,kids,we'll miss you, but then we'll be seeing you at vacation time anyway. Don't forget all about square dancing while you're away!

The ASDG appeared this summer at various performances,including a "return engagement" at the Dancing Masters of America Convention,another repeat performance. at Lake Mohegan,an appearance at the Lucille Stoddart Dance Convention,and numerous benefits for the USO and Russian War Relief.

Occupational Index,Inc.of N.Y.C. sends us the news about the release of a six page booklet on "Occupations in Music" It offers suggestions for those who know music as a hobby and who might be interested in turning this hobby into a career.It should prove of interest to teachers,camp counselors and group leaders. Single copies are 25¢. This is one of a series covering 67 different occupations.

Another Departure

Sinse writing the editorial for this issue ,we have discovered that another member of the group has left for the army. Walter Folkoff, who has been in the group for many years , who worked hard and long in the interests of the ASDG, has left us, for a while , to turn his attention to bigger things.

It is not easy to say goodbye to a chap you practically "brung up", whom you fought continuously and on whom you depended completely. Walter was the guy who did the dirty work around the studio, mending things painting scrubbing, etc.We still remember his giving up a Thanksgiving vacation to go down to the studio do some work or other. Even if we said "Thanks , Walter , for all you've done" it ouldn't begin to cover the situation.....so just take it easy, Folkoff, and hurry back!

News from the Boys

Alan Swartz.....in the final stages of his training in the Army Air Corps, and doing a fine job.
Pete Seeger... also in the Air Corps, as is Willie , also Teffie. Babe Z. is in training for the Naval Air Corps .
No news from Dave F. so we reckon that he's all right. Bob Gold is still in California. A nother Dave , who used to be in the ASDG is now in the Navy Air Corps... Chuck N. has the distinction of being the first member ofthe group to be sent overseas.

OPEN HOUSE PARTIES OF THE ASDG WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH SATURDAYS OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING SEPTEMBER THE 26 TH.....
1657 BROADWAY BETWEEN 51 and 52 Streets.
THE FEE, AS USUAL, IS .55 TO COVER INSTRUCTION IN THE DANCES , REFRESHMENTS AND CHECKING.....